



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 21, 2016

Re: Norma Sutherland Smith Park LWCF Grant Approval

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting authorization to submit a grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for partial funding for park improvements at Norma Sutherland Smith Park located at 3350 Waco Road. Total project cost is estimated at \$375,000 and the LWCF grant would provide a match of 45% (up to \$150,000) of the project cost. Park staff will submit a grant application requesting the maximum amount of \$150,000. The local match of \$225,000 will be provided by the 2015 Park Sales Tax. If awarded, the grant would be used for park development purposes only, with the planning being performed by park staff. The proposed LWCF grant funding would be used to add a playground, baseball field and basketball court at the park.

Discussion

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is currently accepting applications for the Land and Water Conservation Fund FY-16 program. The maximum grant match for the program is \$150,000, not to exceed 45% of the projected cost of a project. One of the projects identified for funding by the 2015 Park Sales Tax ballot is the Norma Sutherland Smith Park Phase II Improvements project. The source for the grant match will be the 2015 Park Sales Tax designated for Smith Park in the amount of \$225,000.

The LWCF is a competitive grant program and provides funding for a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects intended to help communities meet the recreation needs of the citizens. The grant will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to add a large playground, baseball field and basketball court at the park. The ADA-compliant playground will be similar in size to the playground at Cosmo-Bethel Park and include a large play structure, swings and independent play features. Other park improvements will include the construction of a baseball field and basketball court at the park. The baseball field construction will not include lights at this time and will be used primarily for practice and younger age groups of softball and baseball players.

LWCF grant applicants are required to have City Council approval to apply for a grant. The department is requesting a resolution authorizing the grant application.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: If the grant is awarded, the Parks and Recreation Department would appropriate the funds as part of the Council approval process for the FY-2017 Norma Sutherland Smith project. The portion of funding provided by the Park Sales Tax in the



City of Columbia

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amount of \$225,000 would be appropriated as part of the FY-2017 CIP budget approval process. Total estimated cost for the project is \$375,000 and will be funded by a LWCF grant and Park Sales Tax.

Long-Term Impact: Park staff anticipates an increase in annual maintenance at the park once the proposed improvements are completed due to ongoing maintenance of the shelter, playground, baseball field and other park amenities. Staff will provide an estimate of maintenance costs when construction of the project goes through the City Council approval process.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Parks, Recreation & Greenways, Secondary Impact: Environment, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Environmental Management, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
None	None

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution authorizing City staff to apply for a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for improvements at Norma Sutherland Smith Park.